Australian aid assists African people to achieve more equitable access to the benefits of economic growth and saves lives through appropriate and effective humanitarian action.

**Strategic direction**

With continued consolidation in 2016-17, the bulk of Australia’s aid investments in Sub-Saharan Africa are directed to countries where we have strong national interest and are able to leverage results, predominantly in Eastern and Southern Africa. **Australia Awards** is our flagship program, supporting good governance and capacity building in the agriculture, extractives and public policy sectors, where Australia has expertise and the greatest potential to make a difference. This work contributes towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth).

Four objectives underpin Australia’s aid program to Sub-Saharan Africa:

- contribute to African leadership and human capacity development in areas of critical skills shortages, specifically extractives, agriculture and public policy;
- enhance agriculture’s contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and food security;
- respond appropriately to humanitarian crises through effective humanitarian partners and support advocacy for effective international humanitarian action; and
- empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes.

**Program highlights**

- Australia delivered improved agricultural productivity by conducting research into food security and farming techniques that increased crop yields and benefited the livelihoods of African farmers.
- Australia’s humanitarian assistance to protracted crises in Somalia and South Sudan, emergency drought relief to Ethiopia and Southern Africa, and food security assistance in the Lake Chad Basin, provided 758,000 people with life saving assistance.
- There are over 6,000 Australia Awards Alumni in Africa, contributing to development and prosperity.
- More than 450 Australia Awards will be offered to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2017-18. Australia Awards aim for gender parity by addressing constraints to women’s participation.
- In 2016-17, 68 volunteers had planned assignments in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho and Tanzania.